JUNE
1952

Amateur Radio

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For the Experimenter and Radio Enthusiast

9D.

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3511.2 Kc.	7012.5 Kc.	7177 Kc.	8155.71 Kc.
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JUNE — — — — 1952

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WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK2WI: Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7146 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50 and 144 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK2WI. Intrastate working frequency, 7125 Kc.

VK3WI: Sundays, 1130 hours EST, simultaneously on 3573 and 7146 Kc. and re-broadcast on 50 and 144 Mc. Intrastate working frequency 7135 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

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VK5WI: Sundays, 1000 hours SAST, on 7146 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW by arrangements only on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

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VK7WI: Sundays, at 1000 hours EST, on 7146 Kc. and 146.5 Mc. No frequency checks are available.

AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

★

Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency

The aim of the majority of persons interested in Amateur Radio is to obtain an Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency, be they young or old.

The fascination of Amateur Radio as a hobby is intense. Its appeal is stronger than the Lorelei, and in some instances has the same disastrous results, therefore it behoves each of its adherents to temper the hobby with moderation. Make it your hobby not your MASTER.

The return and enjoyment you receive from being an Amateur is like all other hobbies. It depends on how much you put into it, not so much the financial side, but your interest and activities in its administrative and social affairs.

To obtain that coveted A.O.C.P. study is necessary, whether be it at home, one of the Institute's Divisional Classes, a local Radio Club, or a Commercial College.

In the case of group instruction you receive only a limited number of hour's tuition per week. During the period of the course you will realise that the total number of hours involved amount to so many days or weeks full time. Say to yourself, "Am I capable of absorbing and retaining the knowledge gained in this short space of time?" If the answer is NO, you should now realise that home study to supplement the group instruction is essential, therefore, set your course along those lines. Self discipline is a MUST if you expect to be successful.

The Ham fraternity is world wide and no matter where you travel the same cordial welcome awaits you.

A visit to any of the local Ham shacks will give you an insight into how the Amateur builds, utilises and maintains his station equipment. Your interesting visit may begin a very fine friendship, the help of which could guide your future progress along the "Road to Hamdom" and assist you to reach your goal—"the A.O.C.P. and Station Licence."

The examination for an Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency is conducted by the Wireless Branch of the Postmaster General's Department on the second Tuesday of the months of January, April, July, and October of each year.

The examination is divided into three sections, viz.:—

(1) The transmission and reception of morse code at a speed of 14 words per minute.

(2) Regulations as laid down in the "Handbook for the Guidance of Amateur Station Licensees" issued by the P.M.G's. Department.

(3) Elementary knowledge of the theory and principles of transmission and reception of radio.

Since World War II. the Amateur has been licensed to use new techniques in the fields of transmission and reception. This privilege calls for the use of equipment of a design entirely new to the average Amateur. The P.M.G's. Department, therefore, has insisted that each new station licensee shall have a very elementary knowledge of these subjects. Likewise the syllabus of lectures for A.O.C.P. Students has been enlarged to cover the following subjects:—

(1) Frequency and Phase Modulation (n.b.f.m., p.m.).
(2) Pulse Transmissions.
(3) Single Sideband Reduced Carrier (s.s.r.c. or s.s.s.c.).

Morse code is something you cannot learn merely by reading a book. All reading will give you is the basic idea of the code and how to learn it. To become proficient, it requires proper tuition and plenty of practice.

The most satisfactory system of teaching morse code is where the characters are sent at approximately 16 words per minute, but the spacing between characters is long. As the student progresses, the spacing is reduced until the practice messages or cypher groups are sent at the speed of 16 words per minute. During the period of tuition the student has learnt to recognise the rhythmical sound of the characters at 16 words per minute, therefore, as the spacing is reduced he has little difficulty in increasing his speed.

Summarising the foregoing, it is very evident that time must be made available each day for study purposes. Make this rule and adhere to it strictly. Nothing is harder to break than a habit, so create a habit of studying. Piecemeal attempts at study may eventually get you your "ticket" —but you may be too old to enjoy being a Ham for long.

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THE CONTENTS . . .

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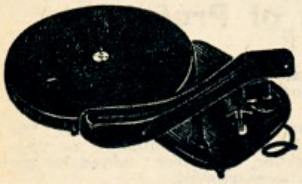
★ CONVERT YOUR EXISTING 78 R.P.M. RECORD PLAYER TO "MICROGROOVE" with the "CHANCERY" PICK-UP AND TURNTABLE ATTACHMENT



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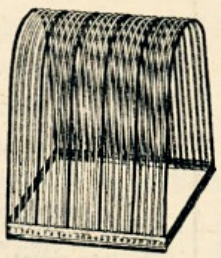

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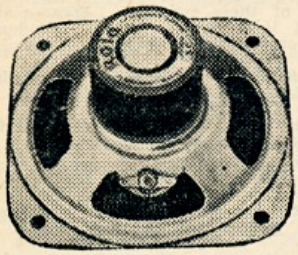

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Model 12O 12" Per. Mag., **£6/9/1.**

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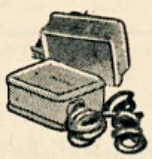
Model 12C 12" Auditorium, **£10/9/-**, less transformer.



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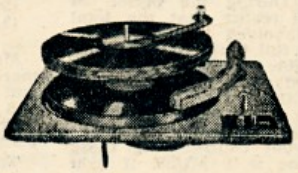

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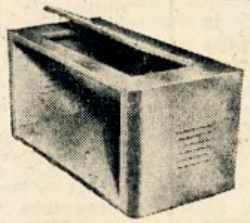

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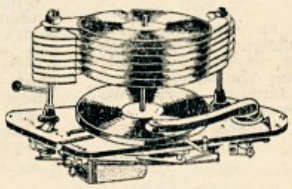

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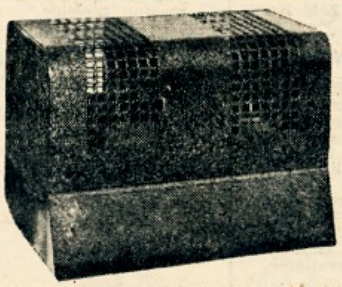
Priced at **£13/19/6.**



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HOW TO USE DRY RECTIFIERS

BY HANS J. ALBRECHT,* VK3AHH

Dry Rectifiers of all sizes and types are now available in surplus shops. It is often not realised what highly valuable components can thus be obtained at a reasonable price. And, on the other hand, rectifiers of this kind have advantages compared with the ordinary valve rectifiers. The following information should help the Ham who wants to use them in a proper way.

HOW A DRY RECTIFIER WORKS

The fundamental principle as discovered by Braun, 1874, holds for all types of dry rectifiers, including crystal diodes which are, however, not dealt with in this article.

Some metals touching a semi-conductor produce at the point of contact a resistance which depends upon the direction of the current flowing through that contact, i.e., a high resistance (about 100,000 ohms) exists in one direction and a low resistance (in the order of 5 ohms) in the other one. Such a contact can therefore be used for rectification of an alternating current.

There are quite a number of possible pairs of metals and semi-conductors, but the following two combinations are most commonly used:—

- Iron (metal)—Selenium (semi-conductor).
- Copper (metal)—Cuprous Oxide (semi-conductor).

They are called selenium rectifiers and copper oxide rectifiers, respectively.

The principle is illustrated by Fig. 1 where M represents the metal, S the semi-conductor, and C the counter-electrode. Such a single unit is called a "cell."

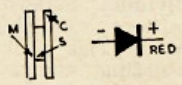

Fig. 1.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The actual rectifier consists of a number of cells connected in series. For any calculation regarding the use of those rectifiers always remember—

- **Voltage** to be rectified depends upon the **number** of cells connected in series.
- **Current** to be rectified depends upon the **cross-section** of the plates.

The maximum current depends upon the heat developed in the cell. Dry rectifiers work usually with better efficiency at higher temperatures, but as just mentioned, temperatures must not exceed the data given, so that a safe action and finally the life of the rectifier is not endangered. It is natural that a rectifier mounted in a free position, e.g., on the chassis, can stand more current than one inside the chassis.

The maximum current density is usually about 50 Ma. per square-centimeter, i.e. 320 Ma. per square-inch.

The temperature of a single cell should not exceed 50°C., i.e. 122°F.

In practice dry rectifiers can be overloaded and even short-circuited for a short period, for the increase in temperature follows only slowly.

* 10 Belgravia Avenue, Box Hill, Vic.

The single selenium cell can rectify up to 15 volts, but breaks down at 16 volts. For that reason it is usual practice to operate a rectifier of such a kind with about **13 volts per cell.** A copper oxide cell is capable to rectify **no more than about 20 volts.**

All dry rectifiers have an infinite lifetime if the maximum data given are not exceeded. The only thing which can happen after some thousand hours of operation is an increase in the internal resistance, but mostly there is no noticeable change in efficiency even after a much longer period.

Usually a selenium rectifier is safer regarding long periods of operation, while copper oxide rectifiers may produce some head-aches after some years. As an example, one particular selenium rectifier for 300 volts and 500 Ma. has been used by the writer since 1947 and still operates very well connected in series with a similar one for rectification of the transmitter's power supply (750 volts at 100 Ma).

The efficiency of a dry rectifier depends upon the load as illustrated in Fig. 2.

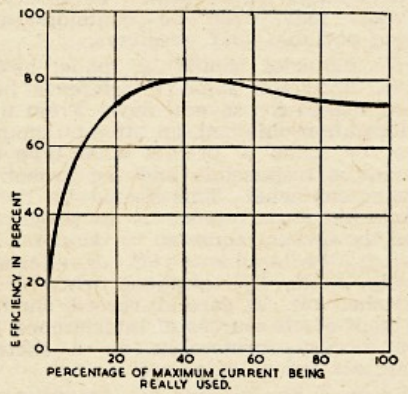

Fig. 2.

PRACTICAL USE

You can use the dry rectifier wherever you would use an ordinary valve rectifier. The advantages of the former are:—

(1) Unlimited time of operation;
(2) No filament requirements;
(3) Good efficiency;
(4) Insensibility to rough mechanical or electrical treatment.

One disadvantage must be mentioned. The ripple voltage is slightly larger than that of an ordinary valve rectifier because a very small current flows in the direction of high resistance. This can easily be overcome by a small increase in filter capacity or filter inductance.

It is always advisable to by-pass the dry rectifier for r.f., e.g. by a condenser of about 0.1 to 0.001 uF. The condenser is not shown in the circuit diagrams.

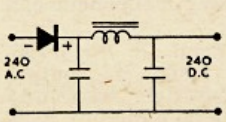

Fig. 3 shows the simplest high-tension power supply without transformer. Half-wave rectification is obtained.

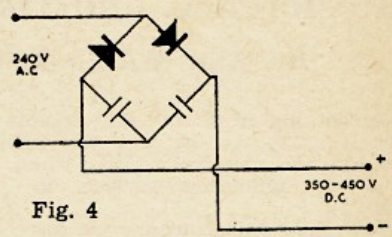

Fig. 4

Fig. 4 gives the circuit of the voltage-doubler method using dry rectifiers. Again a transformer has not necessarily to be used; the filter circuit is not shown.

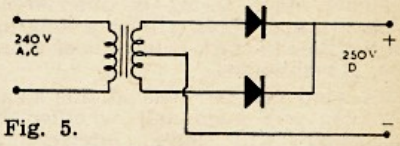

Fig. 5.

Fig. 5 shows the well-known full-wave rectification with dry rectifiers. The filter circuit is not shown.

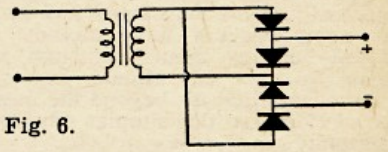

Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 shows dry rectifiers in bridge circuit used for charging batteries. The secondary winding of the transformer has to supply a voltage which is slightly higher than the d.c. voltage wanted.

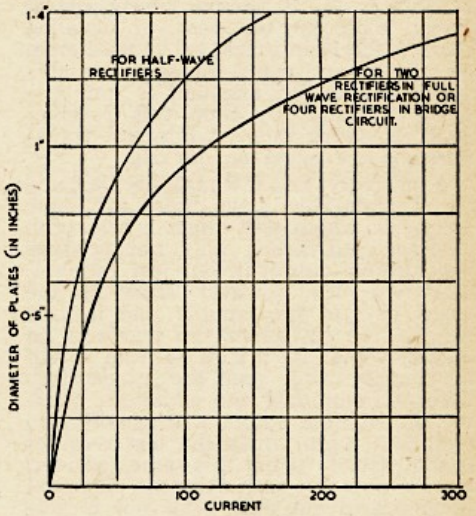

Fig. 7.

The graphs in Figs. 7 and 8 are based upon experience and may serve as a guide for anyone who intends to use dry rectifiers. They show the diameter of the plates (in inches) against the current.

(Continued on Page 5)

TELEVISION MADE EASY

Part viii. Continued—

Interference, and How the Hams Can Check It

BY KEN WALL† AND JOHN JARMAN,* VK3ADA

Awakening from our day-dream, we now begin to wonder why this subject should even concern a VK, when we have no television service in this country.

Now this is just where we have the advantage. Prevention is better than cure and the time that elapses before the opening of Australia's first television station will give the Ham an ideal opportunity to not only "smarten up" his own transmitter, but also help to eliminate other forms of interference in his location. This will be a long job, and the time to start, believe it or otherwise, is right now!

But what can be done at this stage? How can one even tell whether his transmitter will cause interference? Now the ideal test would be to build a small television receiver and instal it complete with aerial system close to the Ham shack. The circuits and building constructions for such receivers are published in some magazines, and probably many readers have already attempted building them. Although this scheme is very educational, however, we appreciate that it's beyond the means of most Hams, so this simpler scheme is suggested:

Our aim is to eliminate spurious emissions, on frequencies within the television band, viz., 180-204 Mc. Suppose we build, borrow, or otherwise acquire a v.h.f. receiver to cover this band, or at least, a substantial portion thereof. If our rig is giving out signals in this band, it should surely detect them. With our test receiver installed close to the Ham shack, set at maximum sensitivity, and using the best available aerial system, an assistant is now engaged to carefully tune this receiver over its entire range, while test transmissions are made on our rig.

Admittedly, this test may not be completely infallible, since there are some emissions which will affect a television receiver, but which may not produce any audible output in our test receiver. This test will, however, show up the worst part of the trouble and in any case, if the rig under test produces an audible signal, it's a sure bet that it will also cause t.v.i. and the precautions taken to eliminate the emissions causing this audible output will usually also eliminate those which the test receiver cannot detect. Using this same receiver, we can now test each domestic electrical appliance in the same way, not forgetting the car or motor cycle.

Finally comes the question of other interference in the locality. Listening watches should be kept regularly and all audible interference carefully tabulated, noting for each noise the time of day, frequencies where heard, repetition frequency (where applicable) and if possible, a description of the nature of the sound.

Note, by the way, that this test can be performed by any reader even if he is not a licensed Ham, since it involves listening only and no transmission.

The actual location of each source of interference may involve quite a lot of inquiries, and general investigation around the district. True enough, the Ham has no authority to forbid people to use interfering appliances, but is it any offence to politely remind them that they have appliances needing repair. A little tactful explanation will bring the co-operation of a surprising majority, and the remainder will change their tune in their own interests when television is established.

A directional aerial system will naturally help in locating these sources of interference, and some enthusiastic readers may even be contemplating using portable v.h.f. receivers.

No inquiries should be made, however, until the same interference has been logged for several days. From the information obtained, an attempt should first be made to predict what type of device is responsible and the probable owner contacted. This should be done while the interference is in progress, and the owner requested to temporarily switch the appliance off, or alternatively, notify by telephone when it is switched off. A careful record should be kept of all sources of interference in the locality, preferably on a sketch map, for future reference.

So much for locating the interference. How can it be corrected? Well, as for electrical appliances, different devices require different treatment, and are best dealt with by a licensed electrician, who should be familiar with the appropriate methods, in co-operation with the Ham who will check this electrician's results, with his v.h.f. receiver.

We are chiefly concerned, however, with the elimination of spurious emissions from our own transmitter. Now this is largely a matter of individual experiment, but the following hints may be helpful.

First of all ascertain whether the emissions are harmonics or parasitics, by noting their frequencies. If harmonics, follow the sequence to find out where they are being generated.

● Disconnect the plate voltage from the output stage. If the same emission still persists, go back stage by stage, until the offending circuit is found. Subsequently, the offending component can be isolated.

● On the other hand, if the interference disappears, when the output stage is made inoperative, disconnect the aerial and tune up on a dummy load. If the emission disappears, the aerial system must be dealt with, and suitable stubs in the feed line will often do the trick.

● If the emission persists, try shielding the dummy load.

Next look for other "channels" for radiation. Using a suitable detector, test for r.f. on the power lines, h.t. leads, panel leads, etc. Remember around 200 Mc. even a very short lead makes an effective radiator.

It should be noted that harmonics can not always be completely eliminated, but they must be sufficiently **attenuated** to prevent t.v.i.

Now parasitics, on the other hand, can be eliminated completely, and their causes can usually be traced if each stage be tested as follows:

1. Remove plate power from all stages and remove filament power from all except the stage being tested.
2. Temporarily apply plate voltage to this stage, having first increased the negative bias for safety, if necessary.
3. Test for parasitics by either grid current, a neon-bulb indicator (applied to each terminal of valve), or abnormal plate current (compared with data sheets).

Beware also of cases where spurious oscillations momentarily occur only when transmitter is keyed or modulated. The shape of keying impulses requires close attention. Each dot or dash (if graphed) should have a sloping leading and trailing edge, with a reasonably rounded top.

In all cases, however, the actual cure for the trouble will be a matter of individual experiment, different transmitters requiring different treatment. Many rigs will require complete rebuilding, and a certain quality which has hitherto been a feature of most experimental transmitters, namely, accessibility, will often have to be sacrificed. In other words, it is seldom possible to build a transmitter that won't cause t.v.i., but still keep its components accessible for modification, as we like to do.

Disheartening as this sounds, however, it is purely a sign of progress and will probably result in the production of much better quality Ham transmitters, just like the time when our "forerunners" had to "dice" their robust spark transmitters for more precise equipment.

Some valuable hints on prevention of t.v.i. should be available from our American colleagues and here's where our DX enthusiasts can help. Those who obtain any useful tips on the subject should arrange with the Technical Editor of this magazine to have them published.

We see, therefore, that the prevention of t.v.i. is not just a matter of invididual care, but demands a coordinated effort, necessitating the utmost co-operation between Hams themselves, and mutual understanding between Hams and the general public.

It should now be apparent why so much theory was covered in the series, before the actual subject of interference was dealt with. In short, one cannot cure

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* A11426 L.A.C. Jarman, J. B., c/o. A.R.D.U., R.A.A.F., Woomera S., South Australia.

t.v.i. without first knowing how a television set works.

It must be emphasised, however, that television is making very rapid progress and even while these articles were awaiting publication, further important developments have been made. For this reason this series has been intentionally written to deal with only the basic principles which would not appreciably change, as television progressed, with the intention of helping the Ham to understand the more advanced television articles published frequently in current magazines.

Readers should take every opportunity to study this literature, and keep up to date with television's latest developments.

Photographs of the patterns produced by the various forms of interference are quite often published, and it is not a bad plan to keep these photos filed for future reference.

Remember, the Ham can't learn too much about television.

One final tip: If you must transmit during television programmes, use only a rig that has been previously tested, and proved free from interfering emissions. If you suspect your rig of causing t.v.i., play safe and use it only between television programmes, using the latter periods for maintenance, etc.

The same applies of course to any electrical appliance and as far as practicable to any motor vehicle that causes t.v.i. Next month our final instalment will deal with colour television. Meanwhile, put this article in a safe place for future reference, and keep those queries rolling in to VK3ADA.

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HOW TO USE DRY RECTIFIERS

(Continued from Page 3)

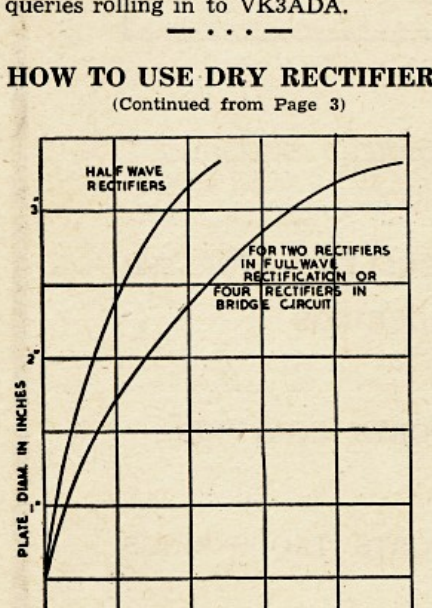

Fig. 8.

The theoretical side of dry rectification has been purposely neglected in this article. If the general interest for a treatment of the theory exists, the writer will always be pleased to deal with it in a further article. Furthermore, the writer will be glad to supply any further information on dry rectifiers, if possible.

THE 8PO AERIAL

Here is a comment from G6CJ on the article by VK3BG on the G8PO aerial. We feel his finding and opinions on this matter are sufficiently illuminating to readers to warrant its inclusion in the magazine.

In the January, 1952, issue of "Amateur Radio," VK3BG has probably come as near as matters to a working specification of the 8PO aerial. The theory of it is quite simple, up to a point; all you have to do is to get equal currents in the correct relative phase in the two radiators, and it cannot fail.

It is the complex feeder adjustments necessary to produce this state of affairs coupled with the fact that people so seldom stick to working instructions, which have caused so much argument and so much disappointment.

The feed problem is always complex when two coupled aerials are in some arbitrary phase relation, and not zero or half-cycle. In the 8PO the phase is 3/8 cycle, and if you calculate the impedances of the two elements you find they are unequal, that is to say, the two wires do not contribute equally to the radiation. In theory they come to about 30 and 25 ohms; in practice, allowing for surroundings, they may have other values, and VK3BG's figure of 40 ohms may well be good enough.

However, if you reverse one feed, the impedances come to new values, over 100 ohms, and hence it is better to reverse direction by transferring the main line to the other end of the 1/8 wave jumper, rather than to reverse one of the branch lines which is what was so often done.

We have published a number of articles on it over here in England, and there has been a good deal of argument and many unsuccessful attempts to get one going. There is no doubt, however, that it is a powerful little unit, and if users will stick to some arrangement which has been made to work correctly, keeping to the right types and lengths of feeders, as for example, those offered by Roth Jones, VK3BG, they will be successful.

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TRADE NEWS

On the 1st May, 1952, Philips Electrical Industries of Australia Pty. Ltd. shortened the title of the Company. The correct name is now Philips Electrical Industries Pty. Ltd.

National Field Day, 1951, Results

This year twelve logs were received, although from a perusal of the logs it would appear that a considerably greater number took gear out and operated during the Field Day. It is to be hoped that next year the contest will be better supported, otherwise it seems hardly worth continuing.

The Open Section was won by VK2ASW/P, operating from Mt. Colah, near Sydney. The operators were B. White VK2AAB, R. Gurr VK5RG, and D. Pollard VK2ASW. The transmitter ran 20 watts input to an 807, modulated by a Class B 6N7. Power was from three 400 volt genemotors.

VK4HR/P won the C.W. Section with 15 watts to an 832. Tibby was assisted by VK4RL and they operated on 7, 14, 28 and 50 Mc. from Maroochydore, Queensland.

The Phone Section was won by VK4KS/P, of DX Contest fame, helped by W. Young VK4YA. A vibrator supplied the power to a 1625 modulated by a Class B 6N7.

Dipoles were most popular on all bands. Check logs were received from VK4AW and from B.E.R.S.-195 to whom our thanks go. Several contestants complained of the lack of co-operation from home stations who were busy chasing DX. Let's give the portable boys a hand next year.

OPEN SECTION

Call Sign	Bands	Contacts	Bonus	Pts.
VK2ASW/P	2	60	75	259
VK2AHA/P	2	45	50	196
VK4HR/P	4	33	75	182
VK7SR/P	1	30	25	115
VK2AWN/P	1	10	25	83
VK3JO/P	2	8	—	44

C.W. SECTION

Call Sign	Bands	Contacts	Bonus	Pts.
VK4HR/P	2	10	75	120
VK2AHA/P	2	10	50	77
VK7SR/P	1	11	25	69

PHONE SECTION

Call Sign	Bands	Contacts	Bonus	Pts.
VK4KS/P	2	69	50	224
VK4TN/P	2	73	25	171
VK2AHA/P	2	35	—	119
VK3LN/P	2	36	25	117
VK3ALQ/P	2	37	—	104
VK2AMV/P	2	31	—	87
VK2RK/P	1	11	—	58

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

W.I.A. members are requested to promptly notify any change of address to their Divisional Secretary, not direct to "Amateur Radio."

URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Mobile Radio Unit of the Flying Doctor Service in Queensland urgently wish to obtain a manual of the AR7 Receiver. Their own was destroyed in a recent bush fire.

If anyone can help, would they air mail it to P.O. Georgetown, North Queensland, together with the cost.

BOOK REVIEW.

Philips' "Radio and Television Manual"

We have received from Philips Electrical Industries Pty. Ltd. a copy of their new publication, Philips' "Radio and Television Manual," price 59/6.

This manual of 776 pages contains just about everything the Serviceman, Engineer, Amateur and Student could possibly need in the way of information. It is divided into seven sections as follows: (1) Broadcast Reception—theory of the receivers; (2) Broadcast Receiver Technique—receivers and amplifiers in very great detail with special emphasis on the servicing angle, including power supplies of all types; (3) Components, aerials and transmission lines, valves and amplifiers, oscillators, ultra high frequencies, frequency modulation, pulse modulation, acoustics; (4) Service to Radio Receivers; (5) Technical Formulae, Tables and Charts; (6) Mathematical Formulae and Tables; (7) Valve Data.

It is impossible to adequately list all the subjects covered in the above sections, but the few listed will give some idea of the ground covered.

A television appendix of 60 pages gives the theory, and possible servicing troubles which will be encountered when television finally arrives.

All in all, this book is a must for everyone who has anything at all to do with radio, be it from the engineering, servicing or experimental angle.

FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

Compiled by J. K. RIDGWAY, VK3CR.

The 288 Mc. band, which has been rather badly neglected, save for the efforts of a few stalwarts, has a group of enthusiastic VK5 operators in the persons of 5MT, 5KC and 5RO who have established an Australian record of 106 miles for this band, made on a portable expedition during Easter, 1952. Here is the story in the words of 5RO (Colin Moore).

During the Easter break, 5MT/5KC went portable to Cape Jervis, 950 ft., and 5RO and associate member, Ralph Taylor, went to Kulpara, 600 ft. Both set-ups were running 7 and 288 Mc. The path up St. Vincent's Gulf looks very good on paper, but owing to poor weather conditions (rain and wind), the job was no "push over." However, after testing for some 24 hours, 5RO's 288 Mc. signals were finally heard at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 13th. A two-way contact was then established, 5RO to 5MT/5KC with signals running up to strength five, with heavy QSB. The distance was **106 miles**, which we think is the **Australian record for 288 Mc.** 5MT/5KC then shifted QTH to Sellick's Hill, 500 ft., and established contact with 5RO, signals being very good S7; distance was then 94 miles. 5MT/5KC also contacted 5SD who is a new licensee. The distance being 33 miles.

Equipment used: 5MT/5KC, 15 watts to p.p. VR135, mod. osc., through 20 ft. 300 ohm ribbon to 16 element vertical beam; 955 sup. reg. receiver. 5RO, 15 watts to 7193 mod. osc., transmitter up 15 ft. in antenna, antenna 3 x 3 beam vertical, relay switched down to receiver. 955 sup. reg. receiver.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Two excellent pieces of news in the v.h.f. world for this month are the following. One hundred and five miles covered on 288 Mc. by 5KC and 5RO from Cape Jervis to Kulpara on Easter Sunday, and the news that 5BC has won the Ross Hull Contest. Congrats to the above three for outstanding achievements.

The VK5 Intrastate Contest has finished and logs are being checked. As a pre-view, it looks like Col 5RO being the winner. The Royal Adelaide Exhibition has closed and 5WI dismantled. Special thanks must be recorded to all the operators who gave their time and especially to 5GL, 5HD and 5LW who acted as links on 50 Mc., relaying all contacts to overcome the local interference at the Exhibition, another advert for the v.h.f. gang. With the winter setting in, most chaps are taking the opportunity to overhaul their gear and prepare for the next DX season.—VK5KL.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

50 Mc.—6HK and 6GB are reliables. Don 6KH has a new final on the way, a pair of 834s and has had drive on them. 6TR, a new licensee is a welcome addition to the 6 mx fraternity and uses a pair of 6M5s in the final. Unfortunately he hasn't quite enough modulation as yet to do them justice. 6LU, once thought to be a firm fixture on 7 Mc. branched out on 28 recently and before the shock had died away opened fire on 50! Nice work, Lou. 6HK and 6TR are the "bozos" (Lou's name for 'em) who plotted up the skull-duggery necessary to bring 6LU on six. Roger 6RK is shifting gear (not QTH) and has not been heard too often. His "old faithfull" 3 element beam has had to receive a shot of Scotch—scotch tape—to hold it together.

Don 6DW and Blake 6GS have been on holidays, the former to Albany, Manjimup and Perth, Blake to Perth (and to 6BO's place, inevitably). Frank 6FC not heard often. He has apparently a high noise level. You're not alone, OM—6HK, 6TR, 6GB and 6BO all complain of the same trouble. Wally 6LW also heard on the band sometimes. 6GB's description was "Sporadic Wall 'E'." Another of Jack's sayings of note—he claims to have "centimetric mosquitoes with dipoles." Rolo 6BO endeavouring to get a portable Tx going for two band operation (7 and 50 Mc.). Uses a 6M5 final and results so far quite pleasing.

144 Mc.—Wally 6AG and Jack 6OR are still good regulars at 8.30 Sunday evenings. 6JS and 6GB also heard and worked. 6DW, 6GS and 6BO had checks on 144 Mc. converters recently and honours are about in order of call signs given above! Rolo sealed up the neutralising on Don's 6J6 to stop him from fiddling! Roger 6RK has a new converter for this band which is very f.b. Also a new Tx on the way.

No news at all about 288 Mc. in VK6 this month, chaps.—6BO and 6WZ.

DX NOTES BY VK4QL*

For the period that I have been compiling these notes, this month becomes the hardest to get enough to make things interesting. Up this way, all bands have been flat, whether you wanted to work DX or VK. Reports from the gang are nothing for them to be in high glee about either. There has been a marked difference in some respects in what VK2 have been hearing or working against the rest. 7RK reckons VK7 should be a different country, then he might do better.

The band survey, stations worked *, and times in G.M.T. (Z time) shows:—

3.5 Mc.: No reports from other than 7RK and myself, and we both agree that there has been nothing worth while going up there for. Except for one KH6, only VK and ZL were heard and poorly at that.

7 Mc.: This band seems to have passed its peak. The great VK activity that was heard over the last couple of months has died, which is a fair indication of the way the band has gone off. The mornings produced very little in the way of DX. **VK2QZ/9**, operating from the Trobriands, has given many a new country. Bob agrees with me, and as so many found during the war, that the YLs of the Trobriands are the prettiest of those to be found in the Pacific Islands. **2TG**, using a vee beam, has been hearing South Americans round 0600Z, but has not worked any. **4XJ** can hear the Europeans some mornings, but is the wrong time of the day for him to get on the air. **5MZ** has been doing alright with his Type 3 Mk. II. His 20w. has worked FK8, KH6, VQ4HJP, VU2AG, 2QZ/9. Over the last 18 months this QRP rig has worked 162 Ws on this band; Frank still has to get himself a European. **7RK** finds the band fair in the evening for North America, which is in direct contrast to up here. I tried to get through to OA4ED on sked, but neither Ray or I heard him, and OA4ED did not hear me. My others on this band were only VS1CO*, 5A2TT, VQ4HJP, VK1RG*.

14 Mc.: This band has been almost useless up here, but according to 9FN, it's going OK up in Port Moresby, so maybe the poor conditions of a few months ago in VK9 have drifted south. The Anzac week-end the band was greatly improved. Whether it was a flash in the pan remains to be seen, but comments on the band indicated a general improvement had occurred. **2DG** inactive due to doctor's orders, but sneaks on occasionally, and was quite relieved when I told him he had not been missing out on much. **3CX** still able to add an occasional new one, this time 9B3AA, also hooked VQ8AF and VP6AA. Heard a station sign OD5AB and give his QTH as Beirut, Box 293. Alan said conditions have improved greatly. **4XJ** finds the Ws appearing round 0700Z and has been working Europe round 1300Z. He lists KC6DX (Truk), KV4AA, YV5AK, KC6QY (Carolines), VK1BS and the usual Europeans.

5HI went to pen once more, and did not like the band much. He lists KS6AA*, VR3C*, JA0IJ*, VQ8CB*, ZS6BW*, HK5EV*, KG4AF*, VK1RG*, FQ8AF, VQ3BM, 5A2TV, EA8AW, EA9AI, FN8AD, YN1AA. **7RK** heard a VK2 give KV4AA S7 one night but could find no trace of Dick. He hears the Pacific and Asians quite well at night whereas up here the band is dead. Ray wonders if all the South Africans are on 21 Mc. as he has not heard one for ages (South Africa has had the use of 21 Mc. for some time). 7RK lists VP6AA*, YV5TK and ZK2AA. He calls every UA station he hears to see if the Iron Curtain can be lifted. As well as the opening on 25th, the Europeans were heard one other morning, the 15th, when the band changed rapidly here. At 2000Z, Europeans were heard, then the Ws appeared, followed at 2115Z by the Pacific stations. My listing: FI8AB* (who does not QSL), VQ8CB*, VK1RG*, KH6PA/KB6*, KS6AA. **5BY** has worked 197 countries, but has not got one new one for five months.

21 Mc.: Watch this space next month. Unfortunately I will be away for the grand opening on the 1st.

28 Mc.: Two of the gang found this band produce results. **2TG** lists Ws, VK9GW, VP6SD, HP3SL, HC1KW, HC1SS, ZS, VU, PY, XE and MI. Reckons he can hear five continents any day with his 4 el. beam. He also heard quite a lot of short skip. **4XJ** has listed ZL, VK, KH6, W, KW6BB*, VE, JA, KJ6AR*, HC1FS*, HP1JO, KZ5AA. Uses a 2 el. beam on this band. 7RK and myself found the band a dead loss.

The QSL situation has not brought much to the fore either. 3CX has them from EK1CW, GD2FRV, VP2MD, TF5TP, OQ5VP. 5HI has KB6AQ, EA6AM, IS1AHK, CR7CR, KJ6AQ, YS1O, and 4QL KS4AC, YI3BZL, TF5TP, HS1UN, ZE3JP, ZE4JC, ST2GL, OQ5VN.

The "gen" section has had it also. Our wishes regarding the 21 Mc. band have been fulfilled as from May 1. It looks as though we can expect little use from the 7 Mc. band in the mornings from now on. The other morning I counted 16 broadcast stations between 7100 and 7200 Kc. and one on 7010 and 7038 Kc. VK1RG expects to have a 50 Mc. Tx operating by the time you read this and will look for reception reports on 7 and 14 Mc.

Within the next few months there is a possibility I may have to discontinue conducting these notes for a period. Ray, 7RK, has kindly agreed to carry on with them during that period. I will let all my regular contributors know by letter when to drop their reports to Ray instead of me.

● The thought for the month: "Good hunting on the new 21 Mc. band."

* Flt./Lt. F. T. Hine, No. 10 (G.R.) Squadron, R.A.A.F., Townsville, Queensland.

DX C.C. LISTING

PHONE

Call	No.	Ctr.	Call	No.	Ctr.
VK3EE	10	163	VK6KW	4	145
VK3JD	1	155	VK3LN	11	141
VK4HR	12	155	VK4FJ	21	135
VK3BZ	3	154	VK6DD	6	126
VK4KS	9	152	VK3JE	7	123
VK6RU	2	149	VK4WJ	17	122

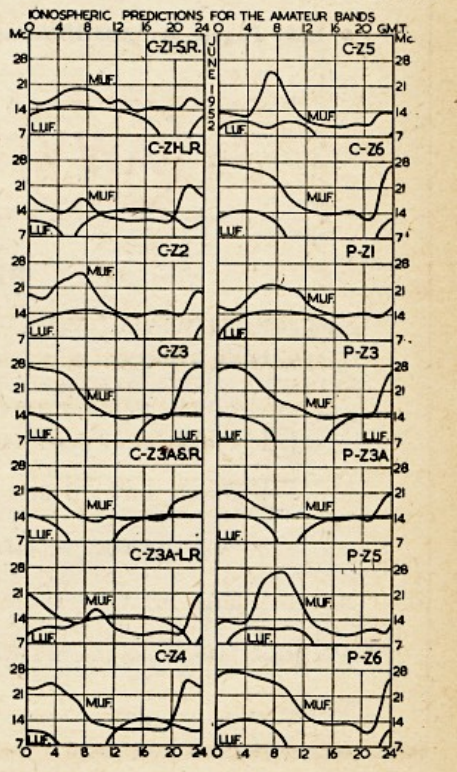
C.W.

Call	No.	Ctr.	Call	No.	Ctr.
VK3BZ	6	200	VK6SA	28	150
VK3FH	15	177	VK4FJ	29	150
VK4HR	8	170	VK3VW	4	143
VK4EL	9	167	VK2QL	5	142
VK2EO	2	152	VK5RX	23	140
VK3CN	1	151	VK3CX	26	140

OPEN

Call	No.	Ctr.	Call	No.	Ctr.
VK3BZ	4	213	VK2DI	2	170
VK4HR	7	200	VK3KX	1	167
VK6RU	8	183	VK4EL	10	167
VK3JE	12	180	VK4KS	24	167
VK4FJ	32	173	VK6KW	13	165
VK3HG	3	171	VK4DO	15	157

PREDICTION CHART FOR JUNE, 1952



FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

Federal President: G. GLOVER (VK3AG); Federal Secretary: G. M. HULL (VK3ZS); Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

NEW SOUTH WALES

President: John Moyle, VK2JU.
Secretary: David H. Duff (VK2EO), Box 1734 G.P.O., Sydney.
Meeting Night: Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.
Divisional Sub-Editor: Harry Powell, VK2AYP, 9 Russell Avenue, Wahroonga.
Zone Correspondents: North Coast and Tablelands: Noel Hanson, VK2AHH, Ryan Ave., West Kempsey; **Newcastle:** Ron McD. Stuart, VK2ASJ, 98 Dunbar St., Stockton; **Coalfields and Lakes:** Harry Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock; **Western:** W. H. Stitt, VK2WH, Cambijowa, Forbes; **South Coast and Southern:** Roy Raynor VK2DO, 42 Pettit St., Yass; **Eastern Suburbs:** Don Knock, VK2NO, 42 Yanko Ave., Waverley; **Northern Suburbs:** Harry Powell, VK2AYP, Russell Ave., Wahroonga; **St. George:** Chas. Coyle, VK2YK, 84 Carlton Cres., Kogarah Bay.

VICTORIA

President: G. Dennis, VK3TF.
Secretary: L. R. Bradshaw, VK3SX.
Administrative Secretary: Mrs. J. Hurley, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melbourne.
Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melb. Technical College.
Zone Correspondents: Western: C. C. Waring, VK3YW, 12 Skene St., Stawell; **South Western:** K. O'Rorke, VK3AKR, Killigrew, Westmere; **North Eastern:** T. K. Tennant, VK3JC, 36 Wilson Ave., Tatura; **Far North West.:** M. Folie, VK3GZ, 101 Lemon Ave., Mildura; **Eastern:** H. O. Kellas, VK3AHK, Tinambra; **North Western:** C. Case, VK3ACE, Cummign Ave., Birchip.

QUEENSLAND

President: V. Jeffs, VK4VJ.
Secretary: J. F. Pickles, VK4FP, Box 638J, G.P.O., Brisbane.
Meeting Night: Third Friday in each month at the I.R.E. Rooms, Wickham St., Valley.
Divisional Sub-Editor: A. Guildford, VK4AP, 36 Bramston Tce., Herston, Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President: E. A. Barbier, VK5MD.
Secretary: G. M. Bowen, VK5XU, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide.
Meeting Night: Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.
Divisional Sub-Editor: W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 10 Victoria Avenue, Rose Park.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: J. Campbell-Watson, VK6JW.
Secretary: H. B. Lang, Box N1002, G.P.O., Perth, W.A.
Meeting Place: Perth Technical College Annexe, Mounts Bay Road, Perth.
Meeting Night: Second Monday of each month.
Divisional Sub-Editor: R. H. Atkinson, VK6WZ, Box 127, Geraldton, W.A.

TASMANIA

President: R. O'May, VK7OM.
Secretary: F. J. Evans, VK7FJ, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart.
Meeting Night: First Thursday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 163 Liverpool Street, Hobart.
Divisional Sub-Editor: V. Dore, VK7JD.
Zone Correspondents: Northern: C. A. Cullinan, VK7XW, 12 Montrose Place, Launceston; **North Western:** R. K. Wilson, 4 Menai St., Burnie, Tasmania.

FEDERAL

RELEASE OF 21 Mc. BAND

Following on the Editorial in the May issue of "Amateur Radio" all Amateurs have now been officially informed of the changes in the frequency allocations including the implementation of the new 21-21.45 Mc. band.

At one minute past midnight on the 1st May many VK stations were heard in QSO on the new band. Current conditions on all bands have been seemingly at an all-time "low" which rather gave a bad start to the new band. However, it is yet early to comment on the possibilities of this part of the frequency spectrum until such time as more Amateurs become active on the band, and other overseas administrations implement the frequency allocation.

During the preliminary discussions with the Department on the release of the 21 Mc. band, Federal Executive requested that the authorised types of emissions in the various bands be reviewed to permit wider facilities.

All Amateurs have now been advised of the wider scope in types of emissions permitted in the various bands which we feel will open up yet wider fields for experimentation.

1952 FEDERAL CONVENTION

Over the Easter recess fourteen official delegates and observers—representing every Division of the Wireless Institute in each State of the Commonwealth—sat in conference at the 1952 Federal Convention held this year in Sydney.

By courtesy of the directors of Associated Newspapers Pty. Ltd. and the Editor of "Radio & Hobbies," conference room facilities were made available for the Convention in quiet and pleasant surroundings where delegates could concentrate on the details involved in some seventy-three agenda items, general business items, and a review of policy matters arising from previous Conventions.

Delegate Vaughan Wilson, VK2VW, and observer, John Moyle, VK2JU, ably represented the New South Wales Division in the discussions evolving from the agenda. Members of Federal Executive and some of the Divisional representatives were later entertained at the private residences of Vaughan and John where the hospitality was both spontaneous and sincere. An excellent display of equipment was demonstrated in operation at both stations, in addition to which a pleasant hour of high fidelity reproduction from micro-groove discs was enjoyed at John's home.

Charlie White—delegate from Victoria—with Len Jackson as observer, accredited themselves well at their first Convention, and returned to their Division happy with the knowledge that they had carried out the wishes of the members in their Division.

Arthur Burton, VK4FE, delegate from Queensland, not satisfied with the job he was doing for his Division during the first two days of the Convention, really "got down to it" on the third and fourth days after Ron Hugo from away out west demonstrated how to energise the human mind and body by hypnotism and mesmerism. All those who had the opportunity to witness Ron at work in this intriguing study of the control of the human mind, voted full marks to Arthur for the sporting fashion in which he co-operated as the "subject" in letting Ron demonstrate the art of hypnotism to others.

The delegate from South Australia—John Bulling, VK5KX—ably assisted by his observer, Jack Coulter, VK5JD, did some heavy debating on behalf of their Division. John, quietly spoken but forceful, was first introduced to Convention proceedings last year when he represented his Division as observer. Jack, vested with the v.h.f. responsibilities in his Division, made short work of the agenda items dealing with his pet subject.

Ron Hugo, VK6KW, admirably represented the Western Australian Division at his first Convention. Any similarity between the voting procedure adopted by VK4 and VK6 is purely coincidental and has no relationship with the hypnotic spell under which Arthur fell at the mere swing of a key-chain! Mind you, all this hypnotism business was conducted during off-convention-hours and there were plenty of witnesses to see that Ron and Arthur couldn't pull off any coup between them.

The Tasmanian delegate—Bob O'May, VK7OM—needs no introduction. Bob did a good job, his only complaint being that he was usually the last speaker and by the time his turn came everyone else had stolen his thunder. Despite late hours and tiring work, Bob always managed to awaken the delegates at the boarding house so they wouldn't miss breakfast and the 8.35 a.m. ferry across the harbour. The only thing about that was the time—6 o'clock!

All in all the Convention was a success and the States had the important opportunity of again getting together to discuss matters concerning Amateurs and Amateur Radio in Australia.

Mention should be made of those who found time to visit the Convention during its sessions. Dave 2EO, Harry 2AYP, Leo 2AC, Wal 2TI, and Ray 2RA, Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively of the Federal Contest Committee; Lionel 2CS, President of the Hunter Branch of the N.S.W. Division; Arie Bles, PK4DA, of Summatra, now on his way to the U.S.A.; Jim 2YC, who attended every session of the Convention and entertained delegates and members of Federal Executive at his home; Morrie 2AAN, and Lyall 2GW.

Space does not permit of relating all the various interesting sidelights of this, the first Convention to be held in New South Wales, and the first Convention to be held away from Melbourne for many years. Suffice is to say that it was a success, and many matters of policy and interest to Amateur Radio were discussed in a manner that could only be done over the conference table.

SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of:—

VK3ZJ—Jim Salmon, 28/4/52.

W.I.A. 22nd ANNUAL FEDERAL CONVENTION

The 22nd Annual Federal Convention of the Wireless Institute of Australia in session in Sydney during the Easter holidays. Left to right: Miss Grey (Official Stenographer), Max 3ZS, George 3XJ, Vaughan 2VW, John 2JU, Charlie 3AUP, Len Jackson, Arthur 4FE, John 5KX, Jack 5JD, Ron 6KW, Bob 7OM, and George 3AG.

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

The QSL Bureau for Luxembourg is located as follows: Reseau Luxembourgeois, 40 rue Trevires, Luxembourg.

Pleased to make acquaintance with Bill Storer, VK1BS, who passed through Melbourne on the way back from Macquarie Island at end of April. Bill, who looked well and carried the full complement of hirsute adornments, expects to resume on the air shortly using the call VK2EG. Replacing personnel at Macquarie Island include VK1EM, Eric Macklin, ex-telegraphist of Melbourne, Rob Gurr VK1RG ex-VK5RG, and VK1RR Roy Arnell. Their sojourn at the Island extends until April, 1953. Bill VK1BS has 1500 cards printed and will make an attack on the back log shortly after his arrival in Sydney.

A new Radio Association has been formed among Amateurs in Holland. The new society, styled "Vereniging Van Radio Zend Amateurs" which means "Dutch Society of Radio Transmitting Amateurs," has its headquarters at Box 190, Groningen, Holland. The President is PA0HJK and the Secretary is PA0GN. The reason for the formation of the new body, which is restricted exclusively to transmitting Amateurs, is, according to the V.R.Z.A., "to the existing society, V.E.R.O.N. (composed of the pre-war transmitting society 'N.V.I.R.' and the pre-war S.W.L. society V.U.K.A.), has turned out to be a society of S.W.L's. and professionals of which transmitting Amateurs form only 18% of the total membership, and decisions affecting Amateurs are being made by individuals who are not Amateurs." The V.R.Z.A. also alleges that the N.V.I.R. will only "pass out cards for non-members twice yearly and then only against payment." The new body will handle cards for members and non-members alike and the QSL Bureau address is as above.

VK2AFF, Kevin Brady, of Wollongong, N.S.W., is currently undergoing a radio course at the Melbourne Technical College.

Norm Walding, ZM6AK/ZL1FT, in a short note accompanying QSLs, says he has over 1,000 cards to send out to 45 countries and is literally and actually sweating over the job.

KV4AA asks VK3AMA to note that his pictures will appear in the May or June issue of "CQ."

Belated notice of a QRP Contest conducted between 0500-2300 G.M.T. on May 4, by the R.E.F., has just come to hand. The Contest was arranged to show what could be accomplished with a maximum of 10 watts. Any VK who contacted a participant during the above contest is requested to send his report to the usual R.E.F. address, viz.: 72, rue Marceau a Montreuil (Seine), France.

To celebrate the 25th year of its existence the Danish Society E.D.R. is conducting Jubilee celebrations, with various contests during May. They have also decided to issue a certificate styled the "OZ Cross Country Award." The award is open to all Amateurs in the world, and is based on contacts with most or all of the 25 districts into which Denmark is divided. Contacts since 1st August, 1947, are recognised and one point is given for a contact on 3.5, 7, 14 or 28 Mc. Foreign Amateurs must produce verifications showing contacts with 15 districts and totalling 50 points to get the Class 3 Certificate; 20 districts and 60 points earns a Class 2 Certificate, while 25 districts and 70 points earns the 1st Class Award and an E.D.R. Memory Plaquette. Applications for the award may be sent to OZ2NU, Borge Petersen, Himmerlandsgade 1M3, Aalborg, Denmark. A list of contacts should be included together with the cards. The latter will be returned. Fees are Class 3, five international reply coupons, Class 2, two reply coupons, Class 1, one reply coupon. Further details may be had from this Bureau. The celebrations will end on 23rd August with a grand party at the palace of Count Molkte. Representatives of many foreign Amateur societies are expected to attend.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The Annual General Meeting and the April monthly meeting of the Division were held at Science House on Wednesday, 30th April, with the President, Mr. John Moyle, in the chair. The ordinary meeting night was on Anzac Day and the hall was unavailable, hence the change. Despite this and the very cold weather, there was a good roll-up, probably attracted by a lecture of unusual interest.

The Annual Meeting got away to a prompt start and the minutes were confirmed after some discussion and argument by one member as to whether they were a true and correct record. The President's annual report and balance sheet had been circulated to members with the ballot papers for the election of Council and the monthly Bulletin. These were not read in detail, but the highlights were picked out by the President and the reports were then discussed by the meeting. The question of increased subscriptions was dealt with at some length out of a request from the Hunter Branch that the matter be re-opened. It was pointed out that nothing could be done to make a further alteration in the subscription rate until next year. Both the President and the acting Auditor (Brian Anderson) were congratulated on their respective reports. Our Honorary Auditor of long standing, Mr. Frank Goyen, was forced to stand down owing to ill health and a motion in appreciation of his services to the Division was passed by acclamation. Brian Anderson was elected to fill his place and is thanked for taking on the task. Scrutineers were appointed and retired with the ballot papers and the Annual Meeting was adjourned pending their return.

The monthly meeting was then opened and the routine business was quickly disposed of. The main item of interest then followed, which was a lecture, demonstration and film by Mr. Gil Miles on Radio Controlled Aero Models. It proved to be a really fascinating subject and was dealt with in a masterly fashion by the lecturer, who combines an expert knowledge of radio, modelcraft and aeronautics—surely a rare combination. He brought his own model aircraft with 9 ft. wingspan to the meeting, as well as an exhaustive array of miniature radio control equipment, both transmitting and receiving. This particular model had many successful radio-controlled flights and although the hall was a little small for an actual demonstration(!) the actuating of the control surfaces by means of a small battery operated Tx was convincingly demonstrated. The film was a record of experiments and research carried out by the Radiophysics Laboratory of the University of Sydney. Mr. Miles figured largely in the film which was more interesting and entertaining than any thriller one can remember. To write down all the meat in that lecture and demonstration would take many pages and one can only hope that someone will be able to persuade Mr. Miles to write an article for "Amateur Radio." Suffice is to say that everyone present was intensely interested. The lecturer was kept busy by a lively barrage of questions until 9.45 p.m. These were very capably answered. A vote of thanks was moved by Dave Evans and carried by acclamation.

The general meeting was then adjourned and the Annual Meeting re-opened, to enable the results of the ballot to be announced. The following were elected to Council for the ensuing twelve months in the order shown: Dave Duff, John Moyle, Lyell Woolnough, Fred Phillips, Vaughan Wilson, Harry Powell, and Wal Nye. Congratulations are extended to the new Councillors, Wal Nye and Harry Powell. Although Wal is, of course, no novice to Council ranks. On re-opening the general meeting, the visitors were welcomed. These were Mr. D. Dunkerton, Vice-President of the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia and G3HIP/VK2AIP. The Federal Councillor, Vaughan Wilson, then gave a brief account of the Federal Convention held in Sydney over Easter. This was enlarged upon by the Divisional Observer, Mr. John Moyle. The results of the Ross Hull V.H.F. Contest were announced and general business proceeded until the meeting was closed at 10.48 p.m.

NORTH SHORE ZONE

Very little news from this area due to the inactivity of the zone correspondent and the absence of one and the illness of another helper. Hope you are enjoying your trip to the country area John 2ANF, and trust you will soon be back on deck Harold 2AQP. You have both been a great help in the past and am looking forward to your assistance again. 2GW heard keeping his traffic skeds on Mondays and Fridays, nice work Lyall. Dave 2EO conspicuous by his absence on the bands due no doubt to W.I.A. work. 2AYP now the proud possessor of a 4 element rotary beam and can be heard sporadically chasing the elusive DX on 20 mx. Bob 2QR a regular on 20 phone yarning with the Ws, together with Jack 2JP. Any news from this or any area would be appreciated.

WESTERN SUBURBS

2AAB, 2ARF, 2ACD, 2AGG, 2AXZ and 2AKR were all at the North Coast Convention at Urunga and an excellent time was had by all. 2AHU on holidays, this time to Canberra, in between times is acting the proud pa-pa. 2AHP is soon to take a trip to Central Australia and will visit 5NC we hope, the beam is doing a good job Harry. Heard 2AWU and 2LG on 21 Mc. with good signals. Jack 2AMJ is recovering we hear and no doubt all will be pleased. 2ARA playing with antennae, has a new one up, an "A.R." version of an odd antenna. 2ACD has the beam up at last, trying out the Signal Squisher of years ago with a few modern slants, the elements are square in form with sides 8 ft. 3 in. in length, spacing between the elements is 6 ft. 9 in. at the moment. 2ALO heard occasionally, waiting for 28 Mc. to improve.

The Burwood Radio Club is still meeting at Greenwood Hall, Liverpool Road, Enfield, each Tuesday night. All visitors are very welcome, there being something for all. Come along and meet the chaps.

2QC will be on 21 Mc. soon, he can at least receive on the band. 2MQ heard on 7 Mc. as well as 144. 2BM seen at the last meeting of the Institute, nice to see you around Fred. 2AGX was sitting next to him and is still busy deciding whether to increase power or not. 2XH, 2VY, 2VL, 2NJ are all heard occasionally working 2APT, all nice solid signals but no comments on their activities. 2OA doing things on 144 and other bands. 2APL heard locally on 14 Mc. phone after quite a spell. 2FM has a beam, works nicely down there. 2OQ has not been too well but appears to be much better now, the phone is really good after the modulator inspection. 2HX still after the DX and he gets on to it as well. 2AMP and 2MH have not been heard for some time, must be hibernating some place.

WESTERN ZONE

The main event of the month was the Urunga "Do" at which the Western Zone was well represented. Present were 2ACU and Norm Moody from Coonamble, 2ACT Dubbo, 2WH, 2AMV and XYL Mary from Forbes. Congratulations to the organisers of a well conducted show. The Hunter Valley gang were again hard to beat, however we were able to make them work hard against us. There has been a lot of movement amongst Hams during the past month and welcomed in Forbes were 2SH and his father, 2AEY and Mrs. Eagling, 2AHM and 2ANF. The latter is staying with 2AMV and is putting a lot of pep into local v.h.f. activities. During the month a group of Western and Southern Hams visited Young, holding what almost amounted to a "South Western Convention." Present were 2WH, 2AMV, 2ANF, 2APP, 2GU, 2TA, 2TC, 2AEL and 2LH. 2TA played host to the crowd and Mrs. Thackeray did a yeoman job in feeding the brutes! Imagine being invaded by nine hungry (and thirsty) Hams at once. The Forbes boys arrived early and visited 2APP, being well looked after by Mr. and Mrs. Page. Before leaving Monteagle, two-way contact was established between 2AMV/Mobile and 2TA, the mobile party homing on the very powerful 2TA 144 Mc. signal. Stan 2LY is back at Katoomba after a long stay in VK3. 2JX active on the v.h.f. bands. Max 2II showing interest in 144 Mc., expects a visit from 2AMV and 2ANF with 144 Mc. gear; they hope to make contact with 2WH in Forbes. With 2AMR and 2ACT expected on 144 shortly, there should be quite a bit of activity in this zone. Norm 2JW, from Orange, is selling most of his gear and will be going for a holiday. We hope Norm returns with improved health and gets his 144 Mc. gear going to provide the link between Bathurst and Forbes. 2NS building 144 Mc. gear and 2ANF reports good progress at Bathurst when he was passing through. 2WH is once again marooned on the island of "Cumbijowa," the Lachlan River having burst its banks for the umpteenth time.

On the Blue Mountains main activity as usual is on the v.h.f's. 2JX is building a super converter for 50 and 144, uses about 4 xtals. 2LZ has 133 feet of wire strung out so possibly the v.h.f's. will have a rest. Stan 2LY concentrating on 576 Mc., hopes to work to Sydney from his rather shielded location. Anzac Day saw a gathering of locals and R.A.A.F. types for their annual re-union at Springwood. 2VN, 2XQ, 2VG, 2HZ, 2LY, 2EZ, 2SY, 2JX, 2XD and 2AP were present at the Golf Club where a general yarn was conducted until late into the evening. 2EX still inactive, works 6½ days a week so no spare time.

HUNTER BRANCH

Details of the successful Maitland meeting have already been covered in the monthly Divisional Bulletin. Our President 2CS represented the Branch at the Federal Convention; Lionel carried out this duty in his usual capable manner. A notable visitor this month was Fred Leader, "The Monitor," of the N.Z.A.R.T., who paid a brief visit while on his way to Sydney with 2XO and XYL. Crieff returned later for few days with locals. Other visitors were Don 2YU and XYL of Tamworth, and Taree Bill 2AEY who took 2AHA's portable on southern tour. Operating in the zone have been 2HL/P and his v.h.f. gang who went up the Barrington, and 2AAA and 2OK with Army Sigs at Singleton.

The Hunter gang was present at Urunga in good numbers and certainly enjoyed themselves. All are most grateful to 2XO and his committee for their efforts on our behalf. We are indeed sorry that due to ill health this was Crieff's last year as chief organiser as he has done a grand job for all Hams. Congrats

to Harold 2AHA on winning Challender Memorial for 2nd successive year and his 2nd place in Hidden Tx Hunt. Associate Syd Daniels won the Fishing Contest for us with 2½ lb. whiting. Varley 2SF and Ass. Syd did good job log keeping, and combined well to defeat my fellow scribe 2WH in snoring contest! Ken 2KG and family enjoyed their first "Do" as did 2DG, XYL and son. This Keith bloke was the larrikin! Stan 2UY and Shorty 2NX handled the Hidden Tx. Associate Les Sparke and XYL had good time and Les' railway "Gen" was most helpful to our boys. A pleasing feature was the presence of and interest shown by our Assistant R.I. Frank Hincks. We are grateful to Taree Bill 2AEY for transporting us during the "Do."

Event of the century—Ernie 2FP came on 40 to QSO Urunga boys; f.b. signal too! Edgar 2MR still a 40 mx regular. Harry 2AFA now using a 40 mx folded dipole with excellent results. 2BZ really keen these days and Dave active on all bands. The Barrington effort has revived interest in 2 mx. 2XY quite active on 144 and Neil busy on AR301 and SCR522 for 2ASJ. He also converted an AR301 for 2XT and Bill putting it to good use. Bill 2PJ is building a parallel line osc. for 144. Very pleased to report that 2AGY is active again; Fred on 144 using indoor antenna! Doug 2ADS spends his time between 40 and 2 mx. On 20 Merv 2AAM is fairly active. Ron 2AAI has the QRO rig nicely modulated. 2AXM yarns on 20 with the locals. John 2DZ enjoyed short holiday in VK3/7; told 'em all about Rothman Modulator!

Max 2OT sighted tripping the light fantastic atop his 50 foot tower without safety belt! New modulator and v.f.o. working well for Bert 2CN. 2AGD is busy on new double conversion Rx using 1600 and 100 Kc. i.f's. Norm 2ANA listens a lot and pops on 40 when opportunity offers. Want a job Norm? Allan 2PT plans a 100w. of plate and screen modulation utilising existing power supply. At Maitland, John 2XQ is worried by butterflies; not in his rig!! Vic 2AKP has an occasional cross town 80 mx QSO with the 122 "Bedside Special." It was good to hear Joe 2ANL again putting out a nice signal with his QRP on 40. 2CI has been busy servicing amplifiers. Norm 2YS has been QRT for complete re-build but soon active again.

Notice of Meeting.—The June meeting will be held on Friday, 13th, at Technical College, Tighes Hill. If you have any bright ideas on lectures, etc., let us have them chaps.

STOP PRESS—SILENT KEY

VK2TI—WAL RYAN

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Wal Ryan, VK2TI, on 16th May. Wal was Chairman of the Federal Contest Committee, a Past Federal and State Secretary, and a Life Member of the N.S.W. Division.

SOUTH COAST

VK2AMW (The Wollongong Club). Some of the boys sat for their A.O.C.P. exam. and now await the results. The rest of the class will sit for the next exam. The boys are still in the throes of re-building some new gear. Since the Urunga "Do," we have had almost a Wollongong Convention here, having had the pleasure of visits from Bill 2AEY, Stewart 2PL, Alan 2ACC, XYL and family, Jack 2AJQ and family. Crieff 2XO also arrived.

John 2AUB has now almost completed his new rig; by the way, during the heavy rain on Easter week-end, John had the water a foot deep through his house. Don 2AFD has now completed his new rig at the new QTH at Wonona and now can be heard brass bashing. Col 2AGZ busy re-arranging his gear in his new shack. The club boys say they are highly honoured by one of their member's XYL (2DY's) winning such a cherished award as she received at Urunga. The first lady to receive the Ear Basher's Award. Howard 2AMD has finished his separate finals for 40, 20, 10 and 6 which looks very impressive, also his vee beam, and can be heard working DX. Eric 2AHY doing good work at the club station 2AMW and can be heard almost every evening; hopes in about a week to be on the air on 40 and 20 on his rig at his QTH. Jim 2AXG can be heard each evening working 40 with a mighty fine signal and getting good QSOs. Glad to hear you are back on your job Jim after such a long illness.

NORTH COAST ZONE

The major event for the North Coast Zone was the Urunga Convention, held over the Easter week-end and proved to be an overwhelming success. Lots of acquaintances and friendships were renewed and many long ragchews had by all. One noticeable fact was the number of associate members present, and no doubt they benefitted from seeing the array of gear and chatting with the operators of same.

2APS, of Tamworth, had a most fascinating piece of apparatus with him, namely a 2 mx absorption wavemeter. On being asked to show his associated gear, Syd blithely replied he hadn't brought any with him. The purpose of the wavemeter, according to Syd, was to absorb some 2 mx sigs and take them back with him to Tamworth where he could listen to them at his leisure.

Crieff 2XO, after the strenuous work involved in the smooth running of the Convention, is having a well earned spell, and has been heard from numerous shacks in the Sydney area. After three conventions, Crieff has been reluctantly compelled to ease down on the amount of work he is doing as his health is not 100%. Rod 2ACU is going to do the labours next year and we wish him every success. Quite a lot of 2 mx activity is taking place on the North Coast but to date no startling contacts have been made. The latest addition to the v.h.f. gang is Jack 2JK from Coffs Harbour, who proposes to do a lot of portable work from high points in the district. Taree Bill 2AEY is touring the South Coast and may bring news of Col 2ASF.

SOUTHERN ZONE

Not having heard a sound from the Southern Zone Correspondent since taking on the Div. Sub-Ed. job, I have asked Jimmy 2AJO to fill the gap. Many thanks indeed Jim.

2BQ, Tumut, is active on 40 and talking of really going to town on 144. We hope to get an f.b. signal from Tumut Geoff. Ross 2PN, also of Tumut, active on 40 and 144. Ron 2PM of Canberra heard battling with QRN, etc., on 40. Ray Kendel at Leeton waiting on his call sign. Hope to hear you on the bands soon Ray, best of luck with new gear. Lyn Turner, Associate of Coolamon, is frantically working on c.w. in preparation for the exam. Best of luck Lyn. Stewart 2PL, of Griffith, active on 40. How did you make out at Urunga Stewart? I hear the bottles were OK. Gordon 2OW at Temora back on 40 after a spell on 20, good to hear you Gordon. 2AKF at Deniliquin active on 40, how about some 144 Mc. gear John? Don 2RS at Albury active on 40 and putting out a good signal. Monty 2JQ at Junee heard on 40 occasionally. Peter 2APP heard on 40 and also had a visit from 2ANF, 2WH and 2AMV.

2PI at Canberra heard on 40; Les is in the process of improving a Collins Rx. Still not 100% since his accident. Jim 2AJO, of Coolamon active on 40 and looking for signals and skeds on 144, using an 832 p.a. and 3 over 3 beam, receiver an AR301.

COALFIELDS AND LAKES ZONE

The highlight of the month was the invasion of this zone by the 2 mx gang operating under the call of 2HL portable. Their intention was to operate from Barrington Tops at an elevation of over 5,000 ft. but unfortunately lack of suitable roads brought them to a halt some miles on the wrong side of the peak and about 1,000 ft. below it. As a result their signals to the south were weaker than expected and fading was severe. The 144 Mc. gang in this zone were pleased to work them and also to hear 2 mx really come to life when the Sydney boys turned on the works in this direction.

A really fine signal on same band was provided by 2AAA operating from the Army Camp at Singleton. This station has also been active on 7 Mc. Ken 2ANU has built a cascode c.c. converter for 144 using 6AK5/6J6 r.f., 6J6 mixer, and 6J6 osc. feeding into a 6 to 9 Mc. Command. Results are very pleasing. Geoff 2VU hauled the 4 over 4 beam up to the top of the tower and then proceeded on holidays just when the fun started. Major 2RU is convinced that 2 mx sigs do get into Gosford from the north. He built a xtal locked osc. for the ASV Rx and mounted the 4 over 4 beam on the back verandah. 2ADT has been in the midst of all the doings.

Cec 2KR and John 2GA journeyed to Urunga for the Convention. Harry 2YL came out of hiding to work the portables at Urunga on 7 Mc. Max 2KZ has been heard on 10 mx again at week-ends. The month ended with a short visit to 2ADT by the old warrior 2XO who was duly impressed by the size of the village. And so one more member has been added to the ranks of those who shake their heads and murmur "How can it work?" (If you do not understand this last remark you are obviously not one of that select band. But how it works can be heard by all who care to listen—Sub-Ed.)

VICTORIA

VALE—VK3ZJ

It is with regret that the Victorian Division of the W.I.A. records the passing of Jim Salmon, VK3ZJ, late of St. George's Road, Elsternwick. Jim passed away on the 28th April, 1952, after undergoing three major operations.

EASTERN ZONE

Ossie put up some lame excuse again and put his assistant to work once more. 3IZ is putting out a walloping signal using 100w. with Class B zero bias modulators. Some say good old b.c.i.!!! Peter and John have a BC348 in about 3,348 pieces at present, hope to get it back in one piece again soon. It's going to be the full gallon, 14 tubes, double conversion, Q5'er, QX and all. 3PR using a new rig these days with much increased power, putting out a mighty signal also. Ron's ideas for the shack in his new house seems to include everything but a butler. 3AHK experimenting with Wyndham antennae these days, still talking about his new rig. 3SS working on a 6 mx Rx at present, the Tx is working and is quite a delightful piece of work, if I may say so. His next stop looks like being One Tree Hill. 3QZ basking in the charms of VK4 these days. Incidentally, Ossie's holiday to VK5 fell through for the time being, however he has high hopes for a future date.

Sale is silent again since Bud 3ABP left, what about someone breaking the silence from over that way. 3AGF still being heard with the TA12 working better than ever. 3AMV

does not seem to be able to get the same results from a TA12. 3CI looked in on 3650 Kc. one Sunday night, pleased to see you Syd. Good roll ups on the hook-ups lately, 10 or 12 stations on is becoming quite common. Will be looking for all we can get on in future with the Convention looming up once again. Now here is the date to remember: **1st and 2nd Nov., 1952, for the Eastern Zone Convention.**

Results of the zone field day on 6th April are to hand and the winners are as follows: Portable Section—3ALA 48 points; Mobile Section—3SS 41 points; Combined Section—3ALA. Teddy has now won three contests in a row. I'm a bit suspicious of him, because he has also worked VK1 on 40 with the AT5!

Chas. 5WQ put in an occasional appearance on a recent hook-up, he proved very useful as a relay station. 3ASE knocking off the DX on 20 from East Sale 'drome. Don't know how, because I can't hear 'em, my Rx is good!

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

This month brought many surprises, to me anyway. 3IJ has been scrounging parts to build a new v.f.o. and had a right royal time while his XYL was away. However Doug was a little sick of batching when he became real hungry, lonesome and his supply of clean shirts ran out. Fast developing into a 40 mx ear basher too, tut, tut, Doug. 3RK visited 3CI while in the district. The zone picnic took the form of a beam raising expedition for 3CI. After a considerable amount of time, a rhombic was finally erected after which Sid and his XYL entertained a considerable amount of people to afternoon tea which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Don't know how you organised it Bob. Gang then took leave and went with 3IJ to the Avenal drome where the gear used by D.C.A. was inspected and the gang yarned with 3ACW who was on duty.

3JC about to dismantle 20 mx beam and reassemble it for 15 mx. Thinks he might get it to work better (he hopes). 3UI already on the new band with quite a few contacts to his credit. Heard him disconcert a fellow Ham by saying he had a xtal controlled converter into a tunable i.f. for 40 mx, as casual as if it were an everyday occurrence. Zone hook-up discussed the next zone convention which looks like being held at Tatura sometime in July. Zone correspondent tendered his resignation but judging by the comments it is not going to be easy to get anyone to accept same.

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

We often record pleasant happenings in these notes, one such was a short visit to the zone by the W.I.A. Secretary, Russell 3SX. Russell arrived at short notice, but despite this and the fact that the zone secretary could not be present, a quick round up was made and a meeting arranged at 3ARL's QTH. 3ACI, 3ME and 3HL came in from Lubech and Callawadda and a pleasant evening eventuated, with subjects of a wide range under discussion. Russell appreciated the gathering and we appreciated the opportunity of meeting him, each, I think, learnt something from the other.

3ACI has been pushing on with 144 Mc. gear; last heard of Charlie had a 4 element beam up and had just about completed tests with it to 3AKW three or four miles away. In the wide flat open spaces of Lubech v.h.f. sigs should get a good kick off. 3ARM has been heard of late putting out a good signal on 3.5 and on 7 Mc.

Our "Clamp Tube" expert has now decided his modulation was not as good as it was cracked up to be (despite the 4/6 mike), and has now changed over to normal plate and screen, it's just unusual to hear 3ARL sine rattles and splatter, however Lin still has his troubles. Our nautical operator, one 3IQ, when not on the briny, gives the YLs in Ararat a thrill by appearing in full uniform, as 3GN remarks he looks the goods and gets 'em in. 3YW is at present in the throes of Rx building, and as the second i.f. is on 110 Kc. it is not much use throwing hi-fi transmissions at him as the said i.f. just chops them off with a lot of other things. A new one in the zone is 3ME, Ewen has just lately obtained his Ham ticket, and should be about before these notes appear in print. Welcome to the very best zone in VK3 OM.

GEELONG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

During the month of April members showed their interest in the club by good attendances. Some pieces of gear were tendered for by members and competition was keen. The money will be used to obtain tools and other pieces of equipment for the club. Three new members were welcomed by members, they were Messrs. T. Blackney, W. Zimmer and K. Hawkins. A morse class is being conducted by 3IC each week and it is hoped that those taking part will obtain their "ticket" shortly. The lecturer for the evening was Brian 3AOL who chose for his subject, "Improving the Effectiveness of a Modulator," including speech clipping, compression and limiting.

QUEENSLAND

This month, messieurs, I hardly took a trick nosing for news. Spoke to President 4VJ and Secretary 4FP about the matter and asked them to refer it to the next Council meeting, but all I got from my colleagues, now not so esteemed, were the discomforting words, "You don't get paid for it, but no news and you'll get flayed for it." So they think. They haven't seen me over the past three weeks down at Snowy Hill's Gymnasium, sparring with Elley Bennett and Len Dittmar.

APRIL MEETING

Starting promptly at 8 p.m. and winding up after a good get-together "chinwag" around 10.30 p.m., the April meeting was held at the usual rendezvous, Institute of Engineers' Rooms, Wickham Street, Valley, and proved quite interesting. The attendance, however, was not up to the usual standard. The first part of the meeting was taken up with a discussion on VK4 Contest activities, and if the keen interest shown can be taken as a criterion of how much success will attend our local contests, members of the Contest Committee are to be congratulated on their efforts in making radio-active those VK4 Hams who, for the last decade or so, seem to have been in a state of hibernation. Clive 4CC cleared up a few slightly doubtful points in connection with contest scoring. He declared that the bonus multiplier of two (2) for users of single element antennae would apply not only to contestants using dipoles but also to those using 66 ft. Zepps or long single wires of any number of half waves. A full cover on our contests appears in "QTC" and to that excellent little monthly publication you are directed for the full details.

Federal Councillor, 4FE, gave a resume of what makes the wheels go round at a Federal Convention. Thanks from all present at the meeting for the excellent address, Arthur. Business concluded with several members, namely, 4XL, 4PR, 4JR and 4AP declaring their shacks as "open houses" for visiting Hams, student members, etc. Nice gesture fellas—the true Ham spirit.

PERSONAL ITEMS

4SS, well known ardent brass pounder, has renewed his licence and recently embarked on the good ship "Matrimony." Better remember, Alan, the weighty words of advice to all newly marrieds from the facile pen of our worthy VK5 Scribe—"DX before Dishes." Best wishes for future happiness to both from the gang. Did Jimmie 4PR tell you about the sweet young thing who, after visiting his Ham station, wondered at what time and over what station the "Amateur Bands" were presented so she might tune in? Secretary John 4FP active on c.w. in Intrastate contest; John keys the screen grid of the final per medium of a clamper tube. You never know what sort of information you may get in this Ham game. John 4RT QSOed a newcomer recently and asked him where he was keying his Tx. Back came the reply: "Am keying Tx in my bedroom." 4HD still sits around on 3.5 Mc. Stout 7 Mc. c.w. adherents are 4DO, 9GM, 4AW and 4QL. Still continuing to keep the c.w. portion of the 14 Mc. populated in the VIB area are 4FT and 4XL. John, using 30 watts, gets out nicely, and last time heard Jim he was contacting FB8 for a new country.

Rumour has it that 4HR has hit the double century on the DX C.C. calendar. Better give it up now Tibby. It's not an everyday occurrence to work two YL c.w. ops in a row. This happened to 4AP the other evening when he contacted Madeline CN8CW and Marian W4GTM. Understand 4KW, 4HR, 4ZB and 4RT quickly broke the ice on the 21 Mc. band. Ted 4MH out of luck, Rx tranny gone up in smoke. 4AX still active on phone. Bob 4RW puts solid phone signal into Brisbane during 4WI Sunday morning 14 Mc. hook-ups. Winner of VK4 Intrastate contest likely to come from 4FP, 4NG or 4AW. All have high scores. 4FE, 9FN, 4VJ, 4KP and 4CC all participants in Sunday morning hook-ups. Bowling enthusiast, Ed 4FG, using only 27w. and a temporary antenna, "bowls" a nice 14 Mc. phone sig down here around 10 p.m. Herb 4ES still inactive; Urunga prize for longest distance travelled Ham went to Harold, 4DO.

4HZ consistently QSOs Len 2LR at Kyogle. Neutralisation troubles have put another furrow in the forehead of Kev 4OR. Harry 4ZP has been busy overcoming coil troubles. Busy building a new rig, battleship style, is 4BJ. Better let us know when you crack the bottle over her Vic. 4NG has a 6 mx converter that can't be beaten. Would like circuit of same Bob. Charlie 4NC is more loquacious on 14 Mc. phone than at Council meetings. Jack 4FJ and Ron 4RL both too busy with QSL cards to come on the air. Still doing grand job as master of ceremonies in 7 Mc. country hook-ups is Tom 4PD. Sunburnt and smiling as usual was Eric 4EL when he visited me the other evening after his South Coast holiday with family. Must tell you saw Sam 4CZ few days ago with a really troubled look on his face. Yes, Sam sure has some problems down at the power house—trying to stop Brisbane and environs from becoming as black as Egypt when Moses blew the gas out.

CLARE'S CORNER

Gordon 4XG has installed a tape recorder and now gives a few of the boys an idea of just how the other fellow hears them. The sun is shining brightly, and the birds are singing merrily—no not in the trees—but on the folded dipoles at 4TT's place. He has a farm of 'em, one in every direction. 4TN got a shock when he could only hear a VK4 in Gympie off the back of his beam. Maybe he was coming in over the long path Aussie? Would like some news on 50 and 144 Mc. doings, so what about it, Russ 4PN, or Bill 4RY?

TOWNSVILLE ZONE (By 4RW)

So far this month band conditions here have been far from good and, as indicated by the prediction charts, lucky is one to find an opening in the desired direction at a convenient time. Band openings to any particular country are of extremely short duration and much time must be spent in listening to take advantage of any DX offering.

There's no doubt about the success of the VK4 Intrastate Contest, it has certainly stimulated some much-needed VK4 activity. Out of hiding places have come chaps and again put their call signs on the air instead of allowing them to sleep soundly in the call sign book. Only snag here is that there are only three Townsville stations on the air. What wouldn't one give for the old times? Then, in this zone alone, nearly 50 points could have been amassed for contacts on three bands. Have even heard some of the Downs boys using 3.5 Mc. to boost their scores. Also, must report that 4NG in the city is drilling the locals to work him on all bands. You're a bit unlucky Bob they do not have 50 Mc. gear.

After an absence of eight months, 4RU is back on the air. Came good again on Good Friday. Why the change Wally? Is the long grass too tough for the little white ball after the recent rains? Since moving from the high tide area to a flood area QTH, 4WH is still missing on the band. 4BE been busy overhauling car but found time to give me a contest point on 14 Mc. 4DE has nine plus carrier but weak modulation. Suggest you hot up the audio Jock. Should mention that if you've worked KC6WC (Bob) on Palau (Pelew Is.) don't forget to count him as a new country. Was put wise to this by KC6DX on Truk in the Eastern Carolines. Another item—Japanese nationals are on the air with J prefixes. Have worked two to date, so either the ban must be lifted or someone is beating the gun. Wonderful is the 14 Mc. two element beam at 4RW. Still more wonderful, are the results with it on the 7 and 28 Mc. bands—sigs actually get out. Someone work that one out for me please.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRO 5PS

The Annual General Meeting of the South Australian Division was held at 17 Waymouth Street, on 8th April, to a good attendance of members and the interest taken in the business proceedings proved that a goodly portion of the total membership are very interested in the way the Division is being run by their Council, but the number of votes cast for the Ballot for Council makes one wonder if there is not some laxness in this regard or is it that the average member is perfectly satisfied with the job the previous Council has done.

It would appear from the results that the latter view may be the case as the present Council was returned with only one member losing his place and that was Dave 5DH, who was outvoted by Reg 5RR, the remaining Council: Hal 5AW, Gordon 5XU, Warwick 5PS, Joe 5JO, John 5KX, Ross 5AJ, Jack 5JD, and the Past President, 5MD, are to carry on for the next twelve months. The retiring Treasurer, Tom 5TL, presented his report and showed the Division as being in a sound financial position, this has only been accomplished by the wise handling of the finances and correct budgeting for expenses for the year. Tom was presented with an electric clock as a token of appreciation from all the members of the South Australian Division and it was with genuine regret that we say good-bye to him and wish him well in his new position as Postmaster at Renmark, we do hope that your enthusiasm will infect the local Coroner in that District, enough to make him again an active and much sought after station. After all, Hobbie there are other things besides being tough on the local "Hobos."

The retiring President presented his report for the year, covering the activities of the Division for the last twelve months, appreciation was conveyed to the many lecturers who gave up their time to present most instructive evenings. Thanks were also conveyed to the firms and Government Departments who made visits to their respective places possible. A special mention was made of the very fine work done by the Sub-Editor, Mr. W. Parsons, in the writing of the notes for the magazine and for his weekly effort in the daily paper. How does one spell weekly Warwick? In case anybody might have the idea that the rotund personage is patting himself on the back just a little too much, let me assure you reader that this month "Tubby" is on holidays and is perfectly in the dark as to what will appear in this column. There is also no truth in the rumour from VK6 that he is a grandfather yet, back to the meeting again.

The President thanked Hal Austin for his weekly broadcasts from 5WI, the Magazine Committee in Melbourne for their sterling work in the production of the magazine, the Exhibition Committee for the magnificent work in putting 5WI on the air from the Royal Adelaide Exhibition and the Relay Stations: Clem 5GL, Ross 5LW, Bill 5HD, without whose help transmissions would not have been received.

He pointed out to the members that the Division has an Oscilloscope, Philoscope, Modulated Oscillator and for the member confined to hospital, a Type 3 Mark II. Transceiver. All of these instruments are available for members to borrow for their own use. The letter of thanks received by the Council from one member, who borrowed the Type 3 for his sojourn in hospital, was ample reward for those who made this purchase possible. Last, but not least, he thanked the members for the generous support given to all officers during the year and urged that the younger member should accept some responsibility in the running of the Division by offering his services for the many and varied jobs that have to be done.

Brian 5CA in some well chosen words, thanked the President for his work during the last two years. John 5KX, the delegate of this Division, went through all the Convention items, to seek approval from the meeting for the way he was to vote. The meeting closed at 11 p.m. and the close attention that was given to all business matters augurs well for the forthcoming year.

A blitz was held recently in this city on jay walking, and who should come out of the "Best . . "—well a building—in a dust coat, but a short rotund figure, who promptly defied all the laws that had been laid down that day, and calmly proceeded to cross the road at an angle of 45 degrees. If I had had only the powers of a Police Officer that day!

The play-boy of Kingswood is in the news again, with bow-tie and all. There is no truth in the rumour that the "Prop" will revolve if you say "contact." South Australians appear to be very belligerent these days; who was the "boundah" who dared to pound his fist on the Convention table and in front of F.E. too, and did those two on twenty mx the other night, make some interesting listening, hardly the band to have a dog-fight on. Why don't you two come down on six, you can call each other what you like there.

It is rumoured that Reg 5RR is to be the next Secretary of this Division. If this be so, we have no better man for the position. His handling of the Exhibition Committee was excellent and no more methodical person could you meet. My spies also say that Jim 5FO will undertake the duties of Treasurer. Jim's vocation in that hard worked body of men (the South Australian Public Service—N.B. you Commonwealth guys) should fit him well for the position and it is pleasing to see at least one of the younger Hams willing to do his bit. Heard one senior member of a Commonwealth Dept., on six the other night, working a local on two, but I was fortunate I knew his voice and I was able to know who he was without him announcing it! One familiar voice there turned out to be none other that that grey headed old so and so, Freddy 5AH. How nice to hear you on again.

Many and varied were the comments made upon the various operators from the Royal Adelaide Exhibition. Some were scathing, others full of praise, which only goes to show that it is impossible to please all the people, all of the time. My own views were that the boys did a magnificent job, they gave up many of their spare evenings to keep the station on the air—and that's a lot more than you guys who criticised, did.

5RO working from Kulpara and Ken Cahill at Cape Jervis did some good work on 288 Mc. at Easter by establishing a two-way contact, a distance of 106 miles which is a record for this State. VK1RG Rob Gurr (ex-5RG) advises that besides transmitting on 14 Mc. he will have Tx's modulated simultaneously on 50 and 144 Mc. and would appreciate reports should he be heard in Australia.

Upon enquiring from Mrs. "Pansy" as to whether she and her husband had had a nice holiday, I was informed "it was wonderful," accompanied by a long-drawn sigh. I remarked that it sounded like a second honeymoon!!!

5CH is still out in the country and has yet to get on the air; Claude has, during his enforced holiday off the air, been catching up with his QSL cards. 5MS is in his new home but unfortunately is without power so that means that Stuart's equipment is also resting. 5JA is finding that married life takes a lot of his spare time and John has yet to be heard on the air. 5FD is still finding too many jobs around the home to enable him to get on the air, but John is still hoping. 5KU has not been sighted for some time. 5TW having an occasional contact on 40 mx, but Tom is also having a quiet time. To conclude this report of feverish activity on the part of the South East gang, I can only say that 5CJ apart from a few skeds on 40 mx is also quiet, although Col tells me that he hopes for better news next month.

5DF is now pretty well settled down in his new QTH at Port Lincoln and found that it was a major operation to change over from d.c. to a.c., but it was well worth the while. 5LT has just finished erecting a "dual dipole" rotary beam for 20 mx and Pat now works all the rare DX much easier. 5VJ busy building sooper-dooper gear and Jack is looking forward to getting on the air again. 5BY put up a ground plane antenna and Dougal is raving about it (or should it be raving, period?). He only wants three more countries to make 200 on c.w., so perhaps it will do the trick for him.

5WY has been having hum trouble and John has been conducting all sorts of tests with Brian 5CA to find the cause. 5DP, who last month reported as using the roof as a ground for his ground plane antenna, has now given it a real test with DX, and Ted is well satisfied with the results. 5RY has been on the air several times of late and has also built up a c.r.o. which apparently is the goods. 5SL has left Berri to live in Adelaide and Laurie will be missed by the gang up there. His cheery personality, extreme good nature, and unlimited energy in all things radio cannot be replaced. The gang wish you all the best, "Skinny." 5MA has at last made the air again since his moving into his new QTH and Fred proudly boasts three contacts. The gear is not set up properly as yet but here is hoping.

5TL has not made the air as yet since arriving at Renmark, but is busy chasing some vile electrical interference, most of which, it is said, comes from the telephone exchange. Tom is living next to the Police Radio Station, so I expect that he is walking the straight and narrow these days! 5RE is also QRT because of electrical interference and is thinking of petitioning the High Court or something. "Hobby" is also having trouble with his 300 ohm feedline breaking off at the antenna joint or somewhere. Rumour has it that another Berri identity who was on the air prior to 1939 is considering making a comeback. Alec Kelly is the name, and for all I know he may be on the air now. A working visitor this month to Berri is Alec 5GS and he expects to be there about five or six weeks. 5KW is still madly building gear, some of which works and some of which doesn't. Harry seems to be in good health although still burdened by that Leg-iron.

At last I am getting something out of Pansy 5PS for nothing. In the mail today I found an invitation to his daughter's coming marriage to associate member Robert Turner. Just think of it, food and drink at his expense, oh boy! Wait a minute, what is this in his handwriting at the bottom of the invitation, "**Please Bring A Basket.**" Well I give up. The cheek of him.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Most heartening feature of the past month has been the re-appearance of communications from my spy-ring. And this is just as well for conditions on the 7 Mc. band have severely hampered my investigations (so spelt, but pronounced by some of my friends(?) as "snooping"). Conditions don't seem to have stopped a certain well known denizen of 40 however for he succeeded in working a Yank (phone v. c.w.) and says he has a witness to prove it. I've no doubt the W copied his phone OK, but how did HE copy the ——— (censored!).

Normally, when I receive a letter with a window in front and an "if not delivered" notice on it suggesting it came from Treasury Gardens, I hastily reach for my false beard, black Homburg and spats, put them on and go for a walk to the Post Office to re-post the epistle marked "not guilty" or "not known at address." The one dated April 29, a copy of which was received by you, you and perhaps you, too, was the exception, for I opened it and learned to my great joy that Tokyo Rose, Saigon Sally and Korean Kate will henceforth have 50 Kc. less of our 40 mx band to pinch; ditto the 20 mx one. Further joy was occasioned by the release of the 21 Mc. band which, like the change-over from d.c. to a.c. at this QTH, was long looked upon as one of those beautiful mirages which dance before the eyes but never become reality. My first listen on 21 on May 1 revealed nothing but sundry f.s.k. commercial code stations going "prrrp, prrrp, prrrp," by the hour. May 2 revealed much the same but on Saturday May 3 the band was alive with signals from every Division (VK6s were on but not logged here) and some ZLs. It was worth a guinea a box to hear confirmed phone ops calling "CQ phone or c.w." and begging (almost) for ZLs to come back! Incidentally, amongst the c.w. logged there were some good notes and some that were definitely "p.u." One ZL1 I heard sounded like a keyed power house. Among the VK6s not heard but

being called and worked were 6DJ, 6WU, 6MB, 6LW and 6RW. I heard one VK2 calling a VR2 on c.w. but don't know whether a QSO resulted. Mal 6MU reported to me later that he had heard that some of the Eastern VKs heard South Americans on 21 and that one at least worked a YV. By May 4 and 5 the band had gone dead again here in Geraldton and the sole occupants were the aforesaid "prrrp, prrrp, prrrp" merchants.

Spies—and Otherwise.—They tell me Lou 6HR has a new beam that sits up and begs, wags its tail and points to where the DX is when Lou pushes the button. Lou bought a disposals batch of post-holes, connected them in series and installed them in the backyard. Now he has a signal-squirter that disappears into the ground like a comedian's trick walking-stick (when adjustments, etc., are in progress) and then shoots skyward for action. Lou put an ad. in the "Situations Vacant" column recently for a qualified lift-driver to work the thing.

Eric 6VM, who is Harry Lime squared (ninth man to you, co-opted to Council) has been putting down yards and yards of piping and sprinklers and although he tells people it's for the benefit of lawn and garden, truth is he's working on a new theory of boosting low-angle radiation by means of keeping the ground wet. He's another to have the beam down at the time of writing, having the boom galvanised. Still more beam news this time re 6LJ. I remember the first Ham tower I ever saw was in Jack's backyard in Vic. Park years ago pre-war; now he has a brand new 1952 model, 40 ft. high. As yet he is undecided as to whether a three, four or five element will adorn it. My spy's comment is "they all work, Jack, only some better than others!"

"Twenty" produces some rare calls at odd times and a recent surprise was 6WS, 6NC and 6AU all in a three-way. Should be more of it, chaps! 6LL has just returned from the land of Pansy P——, sorry, from VK5 and caught a chill on the boat (I wonder how?). Clarrie called on 5KG and bent elbows with Bert who arranged skeds with VK6 but they didn't click. Did you visit that far-famed "best b.c. station" Clarrie? 6BC, another tripper, took three months to visit VK2, 3, 4, and 5. Presumably noting the fashionable waistline now being worn by at least one citizen of VK5, Bert put on 1½ stone but says it wasn't through riotous living—"costs 6/- a bottle, plus cover charge, plus———" anyway, he says it wasn't worth it.

May visitors to Perth (this has to be written in anticipation) were expected to include 4PN attending a Flying Doctor Convention, and 6WM down from the Golden Mile on vacation. Lee of 6LC has been around the lower portion of the State recently but is now back home again. Albany, Bunbury, Manjimup and Perth were on the itinerary and maybe others I don't know about.

There's been an outbreak in the "T" section of the call sign department, 6TK, 6TR and 6TY all being recent arrivals on the air. Welcome, chaps! Late in April VK2AQK/MM bobbed up on 40 and some of the lads worked him but I only heard him once and had no luck when I called him. "Skipper" 6WS has been on occasionally, still with that little portable of his that gets out so well.

6GA from Forrest has been heard and worked a few times lately and it sure is nice to hear you again, Bill. If you could persuade the met. man to make a balloon available you could put up a wonderful vertical long-wire—provided you could get a piece of wire that long.

Regulars (more or less, conditions permitting me to hear them) on the 7 Mc. band include 6LU, 6LG, 6DJ and 6RT. 6WI is either heard at S9 here or not at all and other stations, city and country, pop in and out with astounding suddenness. 3.5 Mc. gets a little attention—a very little attention—now and then but usually only from the regulars. 6MO, 6LG and 6RT only ones known to be using "eighty" so far this season. As for Geraldton doings—well there seems to be nothing. Haven't heard or seen either Ern or Bunny for ages so don't know what they are plotting. Barry 6BR earbashed one of my staff (not a Ham) recently over a meal in a local hash-house and got on the soap box properly about the loss of 50 Kc. from 40 and 20 mx—but so far hasn't got his gear up from Perth, so what the heck, anyway?

As for myself, I'm hoping that between the time I write this and you read it (you do, don't you—**don't you?** Answer me, someone!). As I was saying, by the time this appears I hope to have a.c. That is a commodity I have been waiting for since 1947 and you just can't guess how I long for the day when I can have the shack full of power trannies purring away contentedly on fifty cycles. Excuse me, I must go now, the XYL has just reminded me I have not finished converting the b.c. Rx. See you next month.

TASMANIA

The monthly general meeting for May was held at the usual location, with President 7OM in the chair. A fairly representative gathering was assembled, the number increasing somewhat as the evening progressed, by the addition of a few late-comers. Main business consisted of a summary, by the President, of the results of the recent Federal Convention. Included therein, for good measure, was a brief description of a rather amusing incident which occurred during the visit. Incidentally, Bob, one or two members view with a certain amount of scepticism, the bona fides of the said incident. A vote of appreciation for Bob's able representation was proposed by 7LJ, and passed with acclamation.

The meeting closed with what I can now almost call the "customary" auction sale of surplus radio equipment. Quite a few absolute bargains changed hands. As I see it, you chappies who are seeking good equipment, cheap, cannot afford to miss out on the monthly meetings.

Seen at the meeting, succumbing to the "bargain atmosphere," was Reg 7RL, from Stanley. I trust that when you get that gear back home, Reg, you will do the right thing and advise all N.W. members to fit an additional shunt across their S meters. That reminds me that perhaps I had better shunt my own S meter, because I seem to remember 7OM purchasing a couple of wicked looking "bottles that cheer."

A cordial welcome back to VK7 land is extended to Snowy Harrison. I am given to understand that Snowy, who was recently 3CN, now has his old 7CH call sign back, and whilst at the time of writing, I do not know anything of his proposed activities, we trust that he will show up in one or more of the bands in the near future. Once again—greetings, Snowy. We are listening for you.

I guess that by the time this appears in print, most members will have adapted themselves to the recent band changes, and the mutterings of those who "lost" rocks in the 40 mx band, will have died away to a faint murmur. The general concensus of opinion seems to be that the new 21 Mc. band will be a well worthwhile addition—given time. One certainly could not condemn it when compared with conditions on the other bands at present. Athol 7AJ has been set up for 21 Mc. operation right from the start and is patiently waiting for others to follow suit. I hope that it is not as lonely as I once found 144 Mc. in the past Athol.

Another highly successful 144 Mc. Field Day was held on Sunday, 19th April. The hidden Tx, operated by 7AJ and 7DH, proved too elusive for most, but was found by 7LE first, with 7BJ walking second. Rumour has it that Joe is most anxious to purchase a pair of seven league boots, for the next Field Day, so if anyone can help would they please come forward. The hidden Tx was located in the Snug area and when all wanderers had assembled, competitions for both young and old rounded off another enjoyable outing. Fortunate members who travelled in 144 Mc. equipped autos found the trip home very much enlivened by car to car QSOs.

Another welcome addition to our membership list is Tom Ward, 7SW. Tom has been licensed for some time now, but home-building activity has precluded active interest in Amateur Radio. However, I think everything is well under control now, so what about firing up that rig Tom, in preparation for the next R.D. Contest.

7RM is now the happy owner of a 40 ft. pole, and is finding the improved signal reports most gratifying. A 2 mx antenna should perform well from the top of that mast, Rupe.

Associate member, Johnny Grace, with a revived 2 mx interest, now has a converter working very nicely on that band. 7AZ, with a converter under construction, and further plans for a Tx should be showing up soon. Don't be too long Doug. 7BJ seems to have caught another whiff of the fever, and has a 144 Mc. Rx well in hand. Dave 7DH has just about eliminated all of his 2 mx re-build worries.

Commencing Friday night, 9th May, and thereafter on each alternate Friday, the Army Signals Radio Club proposes to operate 7SR between 2000 and 2200 hours approximately. Bands used will most probably be 40 and 20 and all calls will be welcome.

NORTHERN ZONE

As this month sees our worthy zone correspondent, 7XW, on holidays in VK3, all claims for libel and other damages should be sent direct to 7RK; it's quite some time since I penned these notes, so please excuse any omissions. The April meeting of the zone, held in the Trades Hall, was well attended and those present heard a very interesting talk by 7PF on cascode converters for v.h.f. Quite some few points of interest were raised and explained and much information gained by all. One advantage of having 7PF as lecture officer is that if the lecturer fails to turn up, Peter takes over himself—good work.

Doings of the gang, as always, many and varied ranging this month from building bigger and better beams to rubbing the "good oil" into would-be footballers—the culprit in both cases being 7AM. Les is a man of many parts, but I do wonder what the effect would be if he gets his activities mixed. Would his full-forward oscillate on 144 or would the final kick a goal? 7LZ at the moment on holidays and will no doubt come back full of new enthusiasm and ideas for 144. Has the re-vamping of a Command Rx under way as a tunable i.f. section, as has also 7PF. Believe Peter had to dash off in a hurry to Flinders Island recently to repair the aeradio station, didn't even have time to stow a Rx in the hip pocket.

7GM active on 40 and building a super-dooper rig for 144. 7LX getting the DX bug on 20 and I believe has erected a W8JK for that band. Try c.w. Ken and really work them. Here at 7RK the v.h.f. bug still doesn't bite, apart from a brief sojourn on 288 many moons ago, still content to chase that small particle of DX that remains after the somewhat one-sided clashes with old man ionosphere. 7CA has cleaned the bugs from his phone on 40 and can be heard quite frequently on that band. 7XW went on 144 in a big way then took fright and bolted to VK3 till the racket dies down. 7HY wearing that harassed business man expression which probably accounts for his absence from the air, my information has it that he intends making his second million then getting back on the air so we can expect him any day now.

Had information from Associate Perce Crawford that 7BQ is having a great time in G land and, I guess by now, many other places of interest. Best news for the month, for me at any rate, was the acquisition of 21 Mc. and had lots of fun from 1st May onwards watching the band take shape. Have not as yet heard any of the locals using it yet.

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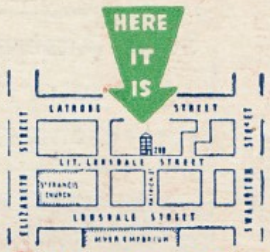

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